KUDO et al. Serial No. 10/702,090

Response to the Office Action dated November 1, 2006

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 14 and 15 contain allowable subject matter. The subject matter of claim 14 has been incorporated into independent claim 10 and claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Conforming amendments have been made to claim 10 and claim 15. Based on these amendments and the indication in the Advisory Action of March 27, 2007, claims 10-13 and 15-18 are believed to be allowable.

The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted, NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

Michael J. Sheat Reg. No. 34,725

MJS:mjs 901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor Arlington, VA 22203-1808

Telephone: (703) 816-4000 Facsimile: (703) 816-4100